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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

REGULAR SESSION, NOVEMBER 28, 1881.

Yeoman Office—S. I. M. MAJOR, Public Printer.

Kentucky. Governor

MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR LUKE P. BLACKBURN

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY,

AT THE

REGULAR SESSION, NOVEMBER 28, 1881.

PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY.

FRANKFORT, KY.:
PRINTED AT THE KENTUCKY YEOMAN OFFICE.
S. I. M. MAJOR, PUBLIC PRINTER.
1881.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

It is with pleasure that I again greet you upon your entrance into the Capitol. You follow in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors. It was here the genius of the great Clay first flashed upon the world, giving evidence of that grand intellect and glowing eloquence which entranced all who came under their magic influence. He went forth from these legislative halls like a conqueror to broader fields of action, and was for years to the whole Republic a pillar of strength and bond of union, forever stilling the troubled waters of sectional strife and faction. Had he met in council with every crowned King of Europe, they would have felt that they stood in a superior presence.

He was followed by others renowned in our history, famed for their incorruptible integrity and wisdom in council, and the memory of such statesmen is a priceless legacy to those following after, unmistakably pointing out the paths leading to honor, prosperity, and happiness.

It gives me pleasure to believe that our present legislators will ably and faithfully discharge the great trusts confided to them by a generous people, and that they will prove themselves not unworthy successors of the great and patriotic men who have gone before them, the memory of whose wise statesmanship and unselfish patriotism will forever be enshrined in the hearts of all Kentuckians.

Let us, with grateful and cheerful hearts, humbly return our thanks to our Heavenly Father for the great and manifold blessings he has showered upon us in the past, and pray for a continuance of those blessings, which in a single century has converted a savage wilderness into towns and cities, green pastures, waving corn-fields, and the abodes of men.

The church bells, the laughter of children fresh from school, and the songs of a happy and contented people now fill these solitudes of a hundred years ago, where then the yell of the Indian warrior alone broke the silence of wood and plain.

All things are in the hands of God; His ways are the ways of truth and justice, and those nations alone prosper who heed His words and conform to His laws.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

It is with profoundest sorrow that I allude to the foul assassination of James A. Garfield, late President of the United States. It was an outrage against the dignity of the Republic, an outrage which filled us all with horror, and good men and women everywhere stood appalled and amazed that there could, on the whole earth, be found a paltry wretch cruel enough, or base enough, for the commission of such a hellish deed.

Guiteau, the assassin, did not confront the President face to face; this he could not do, but stealthily and sneakingly crept upon his unarmed and unsuspecting victim from behind, and fired the fatal shot that plunged the whole nation in deepest distress and mourning.

The President knew him not, had wronged him not, and strange to say, it would seem that the only inducement for this fiendish act was the desire of paltry office, or, perchance, the wish that his name should be heralded abroad, even though it should be linked with eternal infamy. It is sad to believe that any human being can be steeped so low in such infinite iniquity as to commit such a crime for such a cause. May heaven grant that, in the future, there be none found so cruel, base, or infamous as even to contemplate the perpetration of such intense and unmitigated deviltry.

There was, however, one relief to this sad and gloomy picture. The prayers of a sorrowing people from every section of the land, mingling with those of wife and mother, ascended to the throne of heaven for the recovery of that man whose life had so thoroughly illustrated the genius of our free institutions.

Commencing in the humblest walks of life, by his own energy and talents he arose from place to place, from office to office, and from dignity to dignity, until he was called by a generous people to occupy the proudest position in the world.

His presidential career was brief, but full of brightest promise. He was a man of generous heart and commanding intellect, a thorough Christian, full of sympathy for erring humanity, and had he concluded his term of office, so auspiciously begun, we could have indulged the hope that our whole people, of all sections, would have been united in the bonds of affection as they were in the days of the Father of our Country; and now the heartfelt sympathies of all encircle his sorrowing and stricken wife, children, and aged mother.

The assassin lives contemned, despised, and spurned; and yet his life is guarded by the soldiers of the Republic, and will be guarded and

defended until he has full and fair trial. This is as it should be; for it manifests to the world, in most forcible and striking manner, the respect of our people for the majesty of the law, which, in the end, we hope will be fully vindicated without prejudice or passion. The ashes of General Garfield rest in his native State—the State he loved and served so well. Ohio guards the grave of her fallen President, but his fame survives, and in the distant future will incite many a noble and aspiring youth to surmount all difficulties and obstacles, as he did, in the pathways of life. As was well said of another statesman, such men are the brightest jewels of the State: they glorify God, dignify man, and ennoble history.

FINANCE.

It is gratifying to be able to assure you of a more cheerful condition of our finances than was presented in my last message.

The amount of the various funds in the Treasury 10th October, 1881, was as follows, viz:

Revenue Department	$51,118 28
Sinking Fund proper	168,954 27
School Fund proper	23,806 86
Colored School Fund	3,466 93
Total	$247,346 34

The estimate of the late Auditor, the Hon. D. Howard Smith, of the deficit to be met for the fiscal year following his retirement, and ending October 10th, 1880, was $679,912 35. The last General Assembly made temporary provision to meet this deficit by authorizing a transfer of surplus, and a loan from the Sinking Fund to Revenue Proper of $235,671 72. They also authorized the Governor, Auditor, and Treasurer to borrow $500,000 on the credit of the State, if, in their judgment, it should be found necessary.

Of this amount $300,000 was borrowed during the year 1880, and $100,000 in 1881, making a total of $635,671 72.

The Sinking Fund debt has all been paid, and also $100,000 of the borrowed money; leaving $300,000 due on borrowed money, with a balance in the Treasury to the credit of Revenue Proper on the 10th of October, 1881, of $51,118 28; leaving a deficit of $248,881 72.

The receipts have steadily increased during the last two fiscal years. In the year just expired October 10th, 1881, they about equaled the expenditures. It might be confidently hoped that this deficit could be

entirely eliminated by the next fiscal year, October 10th, 1883, but for the expense attendant upon the session of the Legislature.

The Auditor's estimate for the year ending October 10th, 1882, which, of course, includes that expense, is as follows, viz:

Expenditures for the year ending October 10th, 1882		$1,457,650 00
Receipts	$1,306,269 63	
Add balance in Treasury October 10th, 1881	51,118 28	
		1,357,387 91
Deficit for the year		$100,262 09
To which add bank loan		300,000 00
Total deficit October 10th, 1882		$400,262 09

This deficit may be met by either increasing the tax or issuing bonds; but I do not think either to be advisable or necessary.

Although our present State tax is much lower than that of almost any State in the Union, yet it is amply adequate to all our wants, if property is assessed at anything like its real value. The State tax amounts to but forty-five cents on the hundred dollars, of which twenty cents goes to the School Fund, five cents to the Sinking Fund, leaving only twenty cents of what is termed Revenue Proper for the support and expenses of the State Government for all purposes whatsoever.

By way of illustration, I will merely mention that in one of our counties, and that a rich one, I have found that the assessor for the State assessed the property of the whole county at several millions less than the assessor for a single city in that same county assessed the property of that city alone.

A revision of our revenue laws whereby a fair, just, and uniform assessment may be had, will, at the present rate of taxation, provide ample means to meet this deficit, and keep pace with the growing wants of the State for years to come. Our system of assessments is grossly defective. It answered very well so long as our State was sparsely settled by a purely agricultural people, but it is illy adapted to a State with large cities and growing towns, and an extent and variety of trade and traffic never dreamed of when these laws were enacted. A large amount of property is never reached by the assessor; that which is listed is neither fairly or uniformly assessed; the descriptions will rarely ever serve to identify the property, and the assessments are often ridiculously low. It is a system which has been rejected by most of our sister States years ago.

Vermont, by a change made in her assessment laws last year, without any change of her rate of taxation, obtained an increase of 63 per cent. in her revenue. I believe ours might be almost doubled.

I earnestly call your attention to the subject of assessments, and trust that you will adopt some measures to remedy our present most defective system. The admirable and lucid report of the Auditor will fully explain to you the financial condition and resources of the State. The business in this office has so rapidly increased in the last few years that I am satisfied that its clerical force should be increased, and the appropriation for its maintenance enlarged.

SINKING FUND.

Since my last message no change has occurred in the bonded debt of the State. We have still outstanding bonds to the amount of $180.394. Of this amount, $6,394 is past due, and for many years has ceased to draw interest. There is no reasonable probability that these old bonds will ever be presented for redemption.

To meet this the State has in the hands of the Treasurer	$168,954 27
406 shares Bank Louisville stock, quoted.	39,179 00
Stock in turnpike roads, grossly estimated worth	500,000 00
Total estimated resources	$708,133 27

THE KENTUCKY STATE GUARD AND YORKTOWN.

It honors all nations to hold in grateful remembrance the heroic deeds of their glorious dead; and actuated by such a spirit, crowds of patriotic people from the various States of the Union met at Yorktown in October last to commemorate one of the most important events recorded in all history, the result of which was the complete and untrammeled independence of the American people. The surrender of Earl Cornwallis and his entire army on the 19th of October, 1781, was the close of our long and Revolutionary War; for after that no more battles were fought, and the independence of the American States practically was an acknowledged and accomplished fact. Here closed the military career of that grand and illustrious hero, George Washington, whose fame now stretches far and wide as the globe itself. The grand and beautiful monument which our Federal Government is now erecting in commemoration of the glorious achievements of Washington and his compatriots may, perchance, in the lapse of centuries, crumble into dust, yet their

names will perish never, but will live forever enshrined in the hearts of our people until time itself be no more.

I well know that Kentuckians honor the daring chivalry of their revolutionary sires, and I therefore thought it both becoming and proper that the officers and soldiers of the State Guard should participate in the celebration of this National Centennial Jubilee.

The gallant sons of France fought side by side with us on the plains of Yorktown in 1781, and part of the glory of that day was theirs as well as ours, and a hundred years after this crowning victory their descendants come to join us in the Yorktown celebration, and mingle their joy with ours in recollection of the brilliant and heroic deeds of the past. If Frenchmen and Germans could leave home and family and come across the mighty deep to visit a battle-field where their fathers fought in the cause of freedom, surely it might have been expected that Kentuckians would delight to visit a scene immortalized by the daring and chivalry of their ancestors, a battle-field so renowned in history, and which secured American independence, we trust, through all coming time.

It gives me pleasure to announce that the following five companies of the Kentucky State Guards, with the Adjutant General, accompanied me to Yorktown, viz:

The Bowling Green Guards, under command of Capt. M. H. Crump and Lieut. R. M. Covington; the Lexington Guards, under command of Capt. J. R. Morton and Lieuts. D. V. Johnson and F. F. Weihl; the Mason County Guards, under command of Capt. A. C. Respess and Lieuts. E. W. Fitzgerald and Fred. Dressell; the McCreary Guards, under command of Capt. J. L. Price and Lieuts. John Milam and Geo. L. Payne; and the Monarch Rifles, under the command of Capt. S. H. Ford and Lieuts. Austin Berry and Geo. V. Triplett. Lieut. C. B. Bly, with a few men of the Louisville Light Artillery, also went with the troops, all under command of Major John Allen, of Lexington.

The manly bearing and soldierly conduct of our troops from the time they left home until their return was in the highest degree honorable, both to themselves and the State. During the whole trip not a single accident or breach of discipline occurred, and the officers and men of the Kentucky State Guards were the equal of any troops that appeared upon the plains of the ancient and historic field of Yorktown. Our volunteer soldiers have been summoned by the State more than once to suppress mob violence and insubordination to the laws, and wherever

they have gone tranquility has been restored. At their coming they promptly said there shall be peace and order, and peace and order reigned.

I recommend that you make the proper appropriations for repairing the State Arsenal and transcribing the rolls of the war of 1812–'14, bearing the names of Kentucky volunteers. The report of the Adjutant General wil soon be laid before you, and I feel assured that it will afford you pleasure to pass all necessary measures recommended by this faithful and experienced officer for the support and maintenance of the Kentucky State Guard, an organization so essential to the honor and well being of the State, and which, at all times, is so ready to respond to the call of duty.

RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Under the laws of the United States the Federal Government cannot take land in a State for the purpose of erecting public works and buildings thereon without the consent of its Legislature; and as Congress had made an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars for the improvement of the locks and dams on the Kentucky river, I earnestly recommended to the last Legislature that it give its consent to the acquisition by the United States for the land necessary for the construction of the proper works for the improvement of this, as well as other rivers in our State. This consent was given, and what has followed has fully demonstrated the wisdom of our General Assembly upon this subject.

Congress has made a further appropriation of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the Kentucky river; fifty-five thousand for the Big Sandy; thirty-seven thousand dollars for that portion of the Cumberland river flowing through Kentucky; five thousand dollars for Tradewater, and a small appropriation for the Licking. The appropriations were greatly needed, and the Federal Government is now improving our water-ways to the great benefit of our people, and I feel assured that they will be glad and rejoice if Congress would continue this liberal and enlightened policy so auspiciously inaugurated among us. It would be gross folly and suicidal to our interest to oppose it.

A competent force under the guidance of United States officers has been engaged during the summer in repairing the locks and dams on the Kentucky river, which were so rapidly going to decay and ruin; and should these desired improvements be extended to what are known as the Three Forks, it will be of inestimable value not only to the people

of this State, but the whole Mississippi Valley, for upon the banks of this river, as well as some others above named, we find inexhaustible supplies of coal and iron equal to any in the world, and immense forests of walnut and other timbers now in such demand both at home and abroad. These are things which our advancing progress make of absolute necessity, and are required in almost every branch of business.

The time has come when the people of the great Mississippi Valley should demand the improvement of its navigable rivers by the General Government, for its rivers flow into rivers through State after State, until they combine all their waters into one mighty volume, and pour them into the Gulf of Mexico. The improvement of the Ohio from Pittsburg to Cairo, of the Missouri from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi, and of the latter from St. Paul to the sea, would contribute to the wealth and property of all who live in this vast region, affording them cheap transportation and profitable exchange of the products of the North with those of the South.

This Valley contains two millions of square miles, about two thirds the area of the whole United States; a majority of our population live within its borders, and it furnishes by far the greatest amount of products that make up our foreign and domestic commerce. The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture shows that it furnished 87 per cent. of the corn crop, 69 per cent. of the wheat, 72 of the rye, 75 of the tobacco, 74 of the cotton, 71 of the hay, and nearly all of the sugar. It is estimated that the people of the Mississippi Valley pay annually a tax of more than eighty millions of dollars upon whisky and tobacco alone, and yet from the commencement of the Government to the present time, a period of nearly a hundred years, less than twenty-five millions of dollars have been appropriated by Congress for the improvement of the Mississippi and all its tributaries—less than half the amount appropriated for the improvement of rivers and harbors in other portions of the Union—although we have nearly fifteen thousand miles of water navigation.

According to the United States Bureau of Statistics, the United States Government has given 187,785,850 acres of lands in aid of railroads, and the amount of United States bonds issued for their construction, with accumulated interest, as far back as two years ago, amounted to $91,637,928. We do not complain of these vast appropriations, for they have accomplished great and good results; but we do contend that the Mississippi and its tributaries should not be so shamefully and unjustly overlooked as they have been in the past.

We have the majority of the population, raise the most products, pay the most taxes, and therefore have a just claim to a fair share of the general appropriations. Most assuredly ten millions annually should at least be given for our great river and its navigable tributaries, and our members of Congress should see to it that long-delayed justice should be meted out to us.

That great engineer, Capt. Eads, has satisfactorily demonstrated that it is easy to have a depth of twenty feet from Cairo to the Gulf, and since the completion of the jetties, the largest ocean steamers reach New Orleans without the slightest difficulty, and whilst a few years ago the exports from that city were comparatively small, its exports are now greater than from any port in the Union, save New York alone. To show the immense increase of the exportation of grain which is taking place from that port, we take the following from the Inspector's books at New Orleans for the years 1879 and 1880.

In 1879 the export of corn from New Orleans was 3,598,832 bushels, and in 1880, 8,421,146 bushels, showing an increase in one year of corn export of 4,822,314 bushels. In 1879 the export of wheat was 1,901,929 bushels, and in 1880, 5,254,705 bushels, an increase in one year of 3,332,776 bushels. In a single year the export of corn was more than doubled, and that of wheat nearly trebled, and it has been demonstrated that grain can be shipped from Cairo, St. Louis, or Louisville in barges for half the sum it can be shipped from these points to New York.

To show the cheapness of river transportation, it is said that the St. Louis, New Orleans and Foreign Transportation Company are sending flour through to Liverpool for 94 cents per barrel. It is estimated that 2,000,000,000 bushels of corn, wheat, rye and oats were raised in the Mississippi Valley last year, and surely a country with such vast productions should demand the very cheapest transportation. The Mississippi is the natural outlet for the whole valley and its best road to foreign markets.

The Federal Government has appointed a commission of engineers to examine the Mississippi and to report from time to time the necessary improvements required for its safe navigation, and the Governors of States within or bordering on this valley have also appointed a commission of three from each State to inquire into all matters appertaining to the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi as well as its tributaries, and to disseminate through the press or otherwise such facts among the people as they may deem advisable upon the

subject of the proposed improvements, and to communicate the same to Congress by way of memorial or in any manner they deem best, in order to induce Congress to make the necessary and proper appropriations.

These commissioners have done good work, and through their able, indefatigable, and accomplished chairman, the Hon. Eugene Underwood, of this State, will doubtless do much more to call the public attention to matters of such vast importance to the business and prosperity of more than half of the people of the Union.

Cheap transportation cheapens food, and this benefits the whole human race. Up to the present time the commissioners appointed by myself on behalf of the State have performed their labors without any compensation, acting only for the common welfare of their fellow-citizens, and I therefore recommend that the Legislature make a suitable appropriation to defray their necessary expenses in the future.

MONEY.

After the close of our late unhappy civil war we had an abundance of money, and in a brief period prosperity returned to the country. The hum of industry was heard throughout the land, the granaries of our farmers were filled to overflowing, and our artisans, manufacturers, and laborers enjoyed the rich fruits of toil. The great capitalists, however, were not content. Their millions upon millions in bonds and treasury notes and coin did not, as they thought, represent property enough; the products and labor of the country, in their judgment, cost too much; in a word, they believed there was too much money for their selfish aims and interests, and so they went steadily to work, and, in an evil hour, induced Congress in 1873 to demonetize silver, the money recognized by the Constitution, and the circulating medium of almost every civilized nation from the days of the patriarch Abraham even until now.

With the demonetization of silver came the contraction of wages of labor, the profits of all our industries, and consequently thousands were involved in utter ruin. This act of spoliation was committed so silently and secretly that the debtor class did not even know it until they felt the tightening grasp of relentless creditors, and failures and bankruptcies abounded on every side. A wail of distress went forth from the people, and, fortunately for the country, nearly four years ago this iniquitous law was repealed. Nearly a hundred millions of silver dollars have since been coined, and with this came back the fullness of pros-

perity and the active renewal of every branch of commerce, industry, and trade. Railroads are being everywhere built, and the whole country will soon be banded together by links of steel.

The people have been victorious in this contest; but they have wily foes to watch and guard against, for these hold the purse-strings, and confederate and act together in unbroken and solid phalanx. The cry has already gone forth that we have too much money; that silver is too heavy and cumbersome an article for the use of bankers and capitalists, and that it must again be demonetized. This is now the cry of the money-changers; and if we remember aright, a former able and distinguished Secretary of the Treasury recommended that the coinage of silver be stopped when it reached fifty millions. We have already in the last four years coined double that amount, and it has been productive of nothing but the most beneficial results. They say it is too cumbersome; but I have never yet heard a farmer, or laborer, or artisan complain that they had too much of it, for it is a thing easy to get rid of; and even if its weight and bulk be an objection to some, this is obviated by the fact that these legal-tender silver dollars can be, and are for the most part, represented by silver certificates, which can be carried in our pockets by the thousands; and I do not believe that a better currency than this was ever devised by the wisdom of man. France, with a population ten millions less than ours, has a silver circulation more than twice as great as ours; her coin not intrinsically as valuable as ours, and yet she is one of the most prosperous of all the nations of Europe.

An attempt, sooner or later, will doubtless be made to retire what are known as greenback or treasury notes, which amount to nearly three hundred and fifty millions, and substitute for them interest-bearing bonds. In other words, we are asked to give up a currency the equal of any on earth, on which we pay no interest, which is the full equivalent of gold or silver, and which is more sought after than either, and substitute for them the same amount of interest-bearing bonds. This, it is true, might be of some advantage to the inordinately rich and wealthy few, but assuredly not to the toiling millions of the United States; for we cannot believe that they would be willing to retire a currency which has given such universal satisfaction, and so sought after by all, for the poor privilege of paying ten or twelve millions more of interest. When the law remonetizing silver was passed its opponents predicted that gold would disappear from our country. Time has proven that there never was a greater fallacy than this.

Let us look at facts. The imports of specie into the port of New York alone from the first day of January last to the twenty-ninth of October (and nearly the whole of it was gold) was $52,524,007, while the export of specie for the same period was $9,331,412, a gain to us in ten months of $43,192,595.

Now, let us compare this with the imports and exports of specie in 1874, the year after the demonetization of silver. For the same period of time then our specie imports were $5,437,864, and our specie exports $44,363,197, showing a balance against us of $38,725,333.

The United States Treasury books for the fiscal year 1881 have been closed, and show a surplus of $100,069,404, whilst the surplus revenue for the fiscal year of 1874, the time when silver was demonetized, was but $2,344,882. Surely, when we look at facts and figures such as these, we need have no apprehension that our gold will disappear, or our trade and commerce will dwindle, because we go on with the coinage of legal-tender silver dollars.

On the first day of November, 1880, the gold circulation in the United States amounted to $375,323,881, and since that time more than fifty millions have been added to it. As the States have given the Federal Government the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof, and the Federal Government alone coins it, the States which compose this central government have a right to be heard, as they jointly control it, through their representatives? and hence my remarks upon this subject.

I am happy to believe that the Senators and Representatives in Congress from Kentucky are all alike opposed to the demonetization of silver and the retirement of greenbacks; but in order that the wishes of our people upon these important questions may be fully understood at home and abroad, I recommend that the General Assembly pass a resolution instructing our Senators and requesting our Representatives at Washington to use their best endeavors and influence to prevent the passage of any law for the demonetization of silver or against its further coinage, and that they also protest and vote against all measures for the retirement of what are known as greenbacks or treasury notes. If such resolutions are passed by you, it will greatly encourage our friends everywhere, as it will unmistakably show the determinate position of Kentucky upon these all-important subjects of such vital interest to the whole Union. Should Congress again demonetize silver and retire greenbacks, we would again witness, as surely as we see the setting sun,

the same commercial disaster and ruin and bankruptcy that followed in the wake of the legislation of Congress in the fatal year of 1873.

EDUCATION.

During the last session of the General Assembly the common school laws of the State were thoroughly revised by the joint committee on education, aided by the suggestions of our very able Superintendent of Public Instruction, who has so fully explained the whole subject, and who is so thoroughly master of the practical workings of the system. Certain important amendments were printed, adopted, and laid before the Legislature, but owing to the press of legislation in the House on pending matters at the close of the session, no final action was taken.

There will be laid before you in due season the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to which your earnest attention is respectfully invited.

I can but repeat what I presented in my former message, that the great and growing interest of our Commonwealth in an educational point of view should be fully and effectually met. The opportunity of acquiring a plain and practical education must be placed *within the reach* of every child of pupil age. With entire confidence in your wisdom and ability, I commend this matter to your consideration.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky has, under its new organization, exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its friends. It closed the session of 1879-'80, the last preceding the constitution of its present board, with 137 students. The first year under the new organization made by the last Legislature it closed with 234. Its matriculation list at November 9 was 248. If the present rate of increase is maintained, it will close the current academic year with considerobly over 300.

The new Board of Trustees, in reorganizing the College, constituted the normal school as required by act of the Legislature, and in order to provide instruction in Latin for those teachers who wished to add some classical learning to their other acquirements, added a classical professorship.

They also established a professorship of practical mechanics, and a professorship of agriculture, horticulture, and economic botany. The institution, thus enlarged in the direction required by the Legislature, and in the two essential elements of agriculture and practical mechanics,

is prepared to accomplish in the future a work which, during its former connection, it was never prepared to do. It now has the following professorships established to carry out the idea of scientific, technical, and industrial education, viz:

Professorship of Elementary and Practical Chemistry.

Professorship of Mathematics.

Professorship of Civil Engineering.

Professorship of Botany, Comparative Anatomy, Zoölogy, and Geology.

Professorship of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Economic Botany.

Professorship of Practical Mechanics and Drawing.

Professorship of Agricultural Chemistry.

In addition to these departments, there are other subjects closely related thereto, for which no professorships have yet been created, but which are taught by the professors who have these several scientific departments in charge.

These, with professorships of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Civil History, Modern Languages, English Language and Literature, Ancient Languages, and the two adjunct departments of Theory and Practice of Teaching, and a business course, comprising book-keeping and commercial law, make up the several courses of study in the State College.

The Normal School has achieved a fair measure of success during its existence. A large number of pupils from various parts of the State availed themselves of the advantages afforded by normal instruction proper, and by free access to the other departments of the College. The majority of these went back to their respective counties to teach during the fall term, and will return again when the common school session is closed. About forty pupils, notwithstanding, are still in attendance on the Normal Department. The College grounds given by the city of Lexington, containing fifty-two acres of ground, and valued at $25,000, upon which the new buildings now in process of erection, and towards which the city of Lexington and county of Fayette contributed $54,000, will, when improved, be of unusual beauty. The buildings now approaching completion, at a cost of $85,000, will, during the session of the Legislature, be handed over to the General Assembly, upon the invitation of the governing board, to dedicate. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will respond to this invitation, and see, each member for himself, the opportunities and possibilities for general education, especially for the education of the honest, indus-

trious, and deserving poor, which are afforded by this College. Founded by the munificence of the General Government, and aided by the liberality of the last General Assembly, it places a first-class education within the reach of every industrious lad in the Commonwealth, however poor his advantages hitherto, and however scanty his means. By its system of beneficiaries drawn from the common schools, to whom free tuition is given, by its provisions for cheap, yet wholesome and substantial fare, and above all, by its scheme of compensated labor, it appeals to and attracts the energetic, the ambitious, the self-reliant, who, but for these advantages, could never hope to rise, and whose undeveloped wealth of mind would be lost to our people. The rapidity with which its halls have been filled, and the alacrity with which the youth of Kentucky avail themselves of these advantages, show that a felt want has been supplied. It is not too much to say that, supported as it ought to be by the Commonwealth, and managed as it will be by its Board of Trustees, not many years will elapse till a thousand students will be found within its walls.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

Immigration into the United States will, perhaps, be greater for the present year than at any time previous in our history. Many of the States have established their Boards of Immigration, who seem anxious to entice numbers within their borders with little regard to the character, habits, or modes of life of those who come.

The population of China alone is estimated at four hundred millions, and should we encourage immigration from them, they will soon come among us by the million.

A single ocean divides us, across which transportation is both cheap and easy; and should such immigration be encouraged by the government of the United States, our Pacific slope would soon be overrun by the swarthy hordes of the Celestial Empire. China could send us, with great relief to her dense and overburdened population, at least fifty millions of her people; but to us it would be an infliction beyond all suffering and endurance. They first touch the golden shores of Oregon and California; but should their immigration among us be encouraged, they would soon spread themselves over a vast portion of our Union.

In some of the districts of Europe the people, finding the support of their maimed and infirm a heavy burden, have paid their ex-

penses to the United States to relieve themselves of continued assessments for their support, thus filling our charitable institutions with those who should have been maintained at public expense at home. In some instances even criminals have been sent among us, and we think it only just and proper that our Federal Government should use its power to protect us from such inflictions. For myself, I cordially extend the hand of welcome to every honest and industrious man who comes to our State, however poor and friendless he may be. Such are, indeed, welcome, but at the same time I must acknowledge that many of our most intelligent citizens do not believe that extreme density of population adds to human happiness. In confirmation of this they point us to China, as well as to some of the overcrowded populations of Europe, where, with the masses, life itself is a mere struggle for existence. Mr. Jefferson, that great apostle of liberty, and, I may add, that profound statesman and philosopher, in his notes on Virginia, speaking upon this subject, remarks:

"The present desire of America is to produce rapid population by as great importation of foreigners as possible, but is it founded on good policy?" He goes on to say as follows: "If they come of themselves, they are entitled to all of the rights of citizenship; but I doubt the expediency of inviting them by extraordinary encouragements. I mean not that these doubts should be extended to the importation of useful artificers. The policy of that measure depends on very different considerations. Spare no expense in obtaining them. They will, after awhile, go to the plough and hoe, but, in the meantime, they will teach us something we do not know."

One hundred years ago, after the battle of Yorktown, which practically closed our Revolutionary War, the whole population of the United States was but three millions. Now, but a single century after that event, it is certainly not less than fifty-one millions, or, in other words, seventeen times what it was a hundred years ago. Should we increase in the same ratio for the coming century, our population will be over eight hundred and fifty millions. Should it reach but half of this amount, it would seem to us that four hundred millions of people would satisfy the lover of the intensest density of population. A century ago Kentucky was a wilderness; but we now have a population of a million seven hundred thousand souls, and in the lapse of another such period of time the whole face of the State will be covered by towns and cities, gardens and farms, with a population most assuredly

dense enough for the comfort, well being, and happiness of all the people who then may inhabit the land.

The important work of making a Geological and Topographical Survey of the State has made favorable progress since your adjournment. Several counties hitherto unexplored have been accurately mapped, and positions and value of the mineral deposits determined. Important discoveries of the existence of a coking coal of superior quality, now greatly in demand for the manufacture of iron, have been made, and the position of coal traced over a wide area. The publication of these results have greatly stimulated the demand for railways in portions of our State destitute of such means of transportation, and convinced capitalists that it will be a profitable investment to build roads penetrating those regions, thus securing these desired improvements without taxing the counties through which these roads will pass. The importance of such a Survey to a State so rich in resources as Kentucky, is too apparent to need argument to impress you with the necessity of giving to this subject most careful consideration

The wisdom in providing for the continuance of the Survey by the last Legislature, and widening the scope of its usefulness by adding to it a Bureau of Immigration, has been demonstrated by results. Although the Bureau has been organized less than eighteen months, more has been accomplished in making known abroad the vast resources of the State, and the real advantages offered by it to persons seeking homes, than in the previous history of the Commonwealth. The work and publications of this Bureau have been so directed as to attract the most desirable class of immigrants, and already several thriving colonies, composed of farmers and skilled artisans, have been located; and if the work so well begun is continued, in a few years many people will have happy homes in what may now be called a wilderness. Such a Bureau is also of immense value in exercising proper surveillance over immigration or preventing the indiscriminate bringing into the State of an objectionable class. We observe that at last the Federal authorities and the Board of Immigration of New York have instituted stringent measures to prevent the landing of criminals and tramps; and the remoteness of Kentucky from the seaboard, it is hoped, will exempt the State from much of such immigration, and from the inroads of such alien races as the Chinese, already so much dreaded on the Pacific slope.

The sound policy adopted by this Bureau, and the honest and industrious and well-to-do people already brought into the State by it, is an

assurance that it will use its best endeavors to promote the true interes of the State.

I recommend that you make ample provision for the continuance of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Immigration under its present efficient organization. The report of our able Geologist, Mr. Procter, with its recommendations and suggestions, will in due time be laid before you.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Statistics will be laid before you. This department was established in 1876, and the result of its labors has been a steady and continued advance in popular favor. Although Kentucky was the second State admitted into the Federal Union, it was about the last to establish a bureau in behalf of agriculture—the business above all others in which Kentucky is most deeply interested.

With little or no means placed at his command, our present faithful Commissioner has nevertheless managed to distribute, throughout the State, seeds of the best varieties of the three great staples of our Commonwealth—corn, wheat, and tobacco. It is for the Legislature to determine the propriety of placing at the command of the Commissioner the necessary sum for the purchase of seeds for distribution.

This would seem to be in furtherance of the objects for which this department was established.

The Agricultural Bureau is of recent creation and in its infancy, and I therefore recommend such legislation as will place it on a firm basis, and enable it to carry out the great and useful ends for which it was established.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

It affords me sincere pleasure to state that, in virtue of the charter granted, the rooms allotted, and the appropriation made by the last General Assembly to the Kentucky Historical Society, it has been placed on a secure and reliable foundation. Having a large and commodious hall, with its proper appointments, the State has a secure repository for its historic archives. As legal custodian of these important documents, and as an agent "to recover, retain, and record in reliable form the missing links in the chain of our earlier and of our later history," the Society realizes its responsible office.

Your attention is hereby invited to the constitution of the Society and to its proceedings at the dedication of its hall. It aims to be self-

supporting, but it will need for a few years the kindly help and sustaining hand of your honorable body, and at all times the confidence and encouragement of the people of the Commonwealth.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The reports from the Blind Asylum at Louisville, the Deaf and Dumb, Danville, the Feeble-minded, Frankfort, and the Insane Asylums at Lexington, Anchorage, and Hopkinsville, will soon be presented to you. It gives me pleasure to say that all of these institutions, so far as I know, have been well and admirably managed. The most perfect harmony seems to reign among Superintendents, Presidents, and Boards of Commissioners, and these charitable institutions are the pride and honor of the State. They show what sacrifices a Christian people are willing to make for the relief of human suffering. Such institutions are the brightest jewels of Christianity, and mark its progress. They are resistless evidence of the virtue, refinement, and nobility of the people who rear and support them. In ancient days they were unknown in heathen lands, but are the natural fruits of the doctrines of our blessed Redeemer.

I feel assured that it is unnecessary for me to urge upon a Kentucky Legislature the propriety of giving ample support to these noble, as well as necessary, charities. They are the beacon lights of Christianity, and the proudest monuments of the civilization of the age.

In our last hours, and the last hours will come to all, it will comfort us more to think what we have done for others than ourselves.

The officers and Superintendents of these charities in their reports will fully lay before you their wants and necessities, what they have done, and what they expect to accomplish, and I most respectfully invite your earnest attention to the same.

THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The report of the State Board of Health will be sent you, and I invite your earnest attention to this important subject. The health and lives of our people should be paramount to all other considerations. I recommend an increase of the appropriation, the present amount being altogether insufficient for any practical good. The secretary or some member of the Board should be required to visit annually every charitable and penal institution in the State, and report to the Board the condition of the same, and the Board should be required to transmit said report to the Governor. The secretary should also keep constantly on hand

pure bovine vaccine matter, to be distributed free of charge on application from any physician or citizen of the State.

PENITENTIARY.

In my message to the Legislature nearly two years ago, after the greatest thought, research, and examination that I could give to the subject, I expressed fully and at length my opinions upon prison discipline and reform. Time has only strengthened me in the conviction that I was right, and, after the maturest deliberation, I hold now precisely to the measures I then recommended, and in the further discussion of the subject must necessarily, to some extent, repeat myself.

The two great objects of all punishment should be, first, the prevention of crime, and secondly, the reformation of the offender, and not his brutalization and degradation; and therefore now, as before, I earnestly recommend in your legislation upon this subject you keep these two cardinal principles constantly in view.

For nearly forty years we had a system of penal punishment which was enough to bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of all honest men who witnessed it. We hired our convicts to lessees whom we made absolute masters of all save their lives. Under the old system the lessee could lash and lacerate the naked back of his victims, and thus covered with degrading and indelible stripes, scores of convicts every year went forth among the people, ready for the commission of the most fearful crimes. We had taken from them all self-respect, all manhood, and with the brand of infamy upon them, they were at war with the whole world; for they were spurned and shunned as were the festering and putrid lepers of old. All hope of reinstatement of character had passed from them, and hopeless despair was the only heritage we left them. Let us inflict no more useless agony and torture, but turn from the horrid past to a more Christian future.

I know that there are some men who do not believe in the reformation of convicts; but this opinion can only proceed from their utter ignorance or lack of information upon the subject. If they would only read the reports of our latest writers upon the Irish plan for the discipline and reformation of prisoners, they would at once learn and discover that thousands of convicts, after proper training and discipline, have become industrious and valuable citizens. Messrs. Wines & Dwight, in their report to the New York Legislature, describe this Irish system as follows: "In one word, it may be defined as an adult reformatory, where

the object is to train and teach the prisoner in such a manner that on his discharge he may be able to resist temptation and inclined to lead an upright and worthy life. This is done by placing the prisoner's fate, as far as possible, in his own hands, by enabling him, through industry and good conduct, to raise himself step by step to a position of less restraint, while idleness and bad conduct, on the other hand, keep him in a state of coercion and restraint."

Everything depends upon the prisoner's own conduct; and there are four distinct stages in his progress. The first is severely penal, and is solitary confinement to hard labor; but if his conduct is good, he is advanced to the second stage, which is less severe. If his conduct continues satisfactory, he is advanced to a higher stage, where his punishment is but slightly penal; and if he still goes on improving, his punishment loses all penal aspect; but he remains for a time under police supervision. His advancement or lighter punishment rests wholly upon his own amendment; and even the duration of his imprisonment is lessened or extended by it. He has religious training and instruction in the useful arts of life from those competent to teach him these things of which he stands most in need. As he goes on advancing step by step his privileges are enlarged; he is taught mechanical or farm labor, and his earnings are increased and placed to his credit.

The result of this system and treatment is, that most of them come forth reformed men, and the Commissioners, in their report, say, "The difficulty is no longer for released prisoners to obtain employment, but for the employers to obtain the prisoners whom they want, the demand for their services being in the advance of the supply. The Commissioners go on to say:

"The fundamental principle, the warp and woof of the whole, its very sum and essence, is hope—hope born and nourished of rewards earned by good conduct and given only to the deserving; rewards manifold in their character, and operating as a constant force from the time the prisoner enters his solitary cell at Mountjoy till he walks forth a free man, redeemed, regenerated, and disenthralled."

They have a prison at Mettray, France, for young offenders based upon these same principles of rewards and punishments, religious training and instruction in the useful occupations of life, and the result has been that the government returns, which in France are kept with the greatest accuracy, report that ninety-four per cent. of these young offenders leave the prison reformed men.

Let us not shut our eyes to noble examples such as these, but profit by their experience. Let us not always think of cost and money, for the honor, integrity, and virtue of a people are considerations far above these. A statesman once said, "Let there be no such word in the lexicon of youth as fail;" and I sincerely hope that all men will henceforth fail to find any act in Kentucky legislation which will remind them of the words cruelty or niggardly economy when Christianity pleads for the cause of humanity.

Our last Kentucky Legislature made one forward step to redeem the darkness of the past: that cruel, terrible lessee system was swept away, and I trust buried never to rise again.

By an act of the last General Assembly the management of our Penitentiary and convicts was, to a great extent, left to the control of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and they are, as you well know, the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Attorney General, and Treasurer; and they, therefore, for the most part, are responsible for its good or evil administration. The law upon this subject is as follows:

"It shall be their duty to formulate and prescribe for the use of the prison all needful rules and regulations and by-laws for the government and discipline of the prison; the rules for the government and conduct of the Warden, Deputy Warden, and all the officials connected with the prison; also for the government of the prisoners in their deportment and conduct; also for the government of the contractor or contractors in the manner and to the extent to which they shall furnish clothing for the convicts, and shall prescribe the food and diet of all prisoners. They shall also prescribe all needful rules for the preservation of the health of the convicts, for the daily cleansing of the prison, for the cleanliness of the persons of the convicts, and for the general sanitary government of the prison and the prisoners in all particulars, the character of the labor, and the length of time during which the convicts shall be daily employed."

The Commissioners, as it will be seen by the above, are clothed with ample powers. They appoint the Deputy Warden, and even the Warden himself, though elected by the Legislature, can be removed by the Commissioners if they believe he is incompetent or faithless in the discharge of his duties. I do not complain of this law; but on the contrary, I think it a good and excellent one. The misfortune was, that, at the time of its enactment, neither the Commissioners or the Warden had any experience whatever upon the subject, and therefore the admin-

istration of our Penitentiary, I must candidly admit, has not been, so far such as was to be desired. We gain information, however, by experience, and I earnestly hope and trust that there will be a great improvement in this regard in the future. I acknowledge that I should bear a full portion of the blame. Since the adoption of the present system there has been great improvement in the health of the prisoners as well as the Penitentiary finances.

There are now inside the walls of the Penitentiary six hundred and fifty-one men, for whom the contractors pay an annual rent of twenty-five thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars, less expense State guards, &c., seventeen thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars, leaving a net income to the State of seven thousand five hundred dollars. It is impossible to say what the exact number is employed on railroad work, as the number is constantly fluctuating between two and three hundred.

The amount received is fifty dollars per head, and the net income to the State from the same may be safely estimated at ten thousand dollars per annum, making total net receipts of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars. Under the lessee system our Penitentiary was a constant drain upon the Treasury of the State, as we learn from a publication of Judge Lysander Hord, who has shown that at one time, in a period of eight years, Penitentiary expenses were two hundred and twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and forty-five dollars and five cents over and above the rents.

The health of the prisoners bears most favorable comparison to what it did under the old system. From January 1st, 1879, to the 31st of December, same year, there were seventy-four deaths; whereas, under the new system, from May, 1880, to October 31st, 1881, there have been but thirty-six deaths, sixteen of which occurred inside the prison walls, and twenty among the prisoners engaged in railroad and other work outside, from which statement it is most apparent that the prisoners worked out are more apt to fall a victim to sickness and disease than those within the prison walls. The number of those working without is not half so great as those working within, and yet more of them die.

The last Legislature passed an act creating a commissio of three, to be styled the Branch Penitentiary Commissioners, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. It was made the duty of these commissioners to select a site and secure plans and